

them long term counseling and work with them while they are trying to get the heads back on of both of the people and keep the family together.

SENATOR COPE: I see. The second question is section 22, provide that fees may be charged on a sliding scale. Now, I am just curious to know if that is strong enough because I would assume that if people are having the problems that they are beating each other, that when it comes to paying any money for the other person, they are going to drag their feet, even though they can afford to. It seems to me that they would be forced to pay, if they could afford to, not may but be forced because it is of their doing, not the state's.

SENATOR BARNETT: I think that you have made it pretty plain by the record and I am glad that you brought it up. I think the Welfare Department can set that out that it could be a condition of service, but I want you to also notice in the same sentence there, Senator Cope, that starting in line 26, so that nobody gets the impression that you have to pay for these service. "The use of facilities and services established by this act shall not be denied residents of Nebraska because of inability to pay." So you have both or three situations, you have the person that you probably should charge without a doubt, make it a cost, and I think the Welfare Department should take a look at this when they set up the rules and regulations to promulgate the act. Then you should also have the ones that you should ask if they are capable of paying, and they should pay, and then you also have the ones that cannot pay but the service is still going to be available for. I am glad you asked the question.

SENATOR COPE: I agree but I still think that just instead of asking them to pay, the ones that really can, there should be enough legislation that they will be forced to pay or else be dealt with like a jail sentence or something severelike that. That is just my idea. In closing, I am like Senator Duis. I don't like to think these things happen out in the western part of the state but I have had letters and I am surprised, not a great many but some, from women that are asking for this. In fact, the amount of mail for this kind of legislation really surprised me. So again, I certainly do support this legislation.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I am very concerned about spouse abuse but I don't think passing this law is going to stop spouse abuse. I would like to ask Senator Barnett a couple of questions. Senator Barnett, my first question is under this law does the spouse, the abused spouse, gain any legal protection or any legal remedy that they do not now have?

SENATOR BARNETT: That is really a tough question. For this basis, I might point out two things and see if I am getting close to what you are talking about. First of all, the legal protection that they might now have would be enhanced by the training of the police departments throughout the state. At the present time....

SENATOR DWORAK: I am not talking about law enforcement. I